

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-13

DPW-01 AID-20 OMB-01 RSR-01 /115 W

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R 091242Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4331

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12326

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON JULY 9 INFO DRUSSAG NKP RTAFB USDAO SAIG
ON

REPEATED FOR OR YOUR ACTION AND INFO

QUOTE

DANANG 859

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MILI VS

SUBJ: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, JULY 9, 1973

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

THE LEVEL OF COMBAT ACTIVITY REMAINED LOW AND SCATTERED FOR THE
THREE-DAY REPORTING PERIOD, WITH NO COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS
REPORTED NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS. FOLLOWING ARE STATISTICS
FOR THE THREE-DAY PERIOD BROKEN OUT ACCORDING TO THE DAY THEY
WERE BRIEFED AT I CORPS HEADQUARTERS.

JULY 7: 12 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED MADE UP OF FOUR
GROUND ATTACKS, FIVE ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF), AND THREE HARASSMENTS.
CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY 3 KIA, 4 MIA, 20 WIA; ENEMY 5 KIA, 3
CAPTURED, ONE RETURNEE. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 203 ROUNDS, ALL
SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS.

JULY 8: FOUR CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED, MADE UP OF ONE
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GROUND ATTACK, ONE ABF, AND 2 HARASSMENTS. CASUALTIES WERE:

FRIENDLY 3 KIA, 12 WIA; ENEMY 5 KIA. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 67 ROUNDS, ALL SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS.

JULY 9: SIX CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED, MADE UP OF ONE GROUND ATTACK AND FIVE ABFS. CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY 3 KIA, 11 WIA; ENEMY 8 KIA. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 110 ROUNDS, ALL BY THE 2ND DIVISION SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS.

2. TPJMC: QUANG NGAI PROVINCE OFFICIALS AND GVN-TPJMC REPRESENTATIVES HAVE SELECTED AN OLD CATHOLIC SCHOOL DAMAGED DURING THE 1938 TETSEAE TO HOUSE THE PRG DELEGATION WHEN IT DEPLOYS TO QUANG NGAI. THE SCHOOL IS A LARGE TWO-STORY BUILDING SURROUNDED BY A LARGE FIELD WHICH WILL MAKE IT EASY TO SECURE. HOWEVER, QUANG NGAI POLOFF HAS BEEN TOLD THAT REPAIR OF THE DAMAGED STRUCTURE WILL TAKE AT LEAST ONE MONTH, WHICH MAY INDICATE THAT GVN OFFICIALS DO NOT ANTICIPATE AN EARLY PRG DEPLOYMENT TO THE PROVINCES.

3. GVN MILITARY ACTIVITY:

A. A SMALL CONVOY OF THREE MILITARY TRUCKS MADE A SUCCESSFUL RESUPPLY RUN TO MINH LONG DISTRICT TOWN, QUANG NGAI PROVINCE, ON JULY 5. VC SNIPERS FIRED ON ONE TRUCK AFTER IT BROKE DOWN NEAR THE CONG HOA BRIDGE (BT6155) BUT CEASED FIRING AFTER FRIENDLY TROOPS CALLED IN ARTILLERY FIRE ON THE ENEMY POSITIONS. COMMERCIAL VEHICLES, MOSTLY HONDAS, AND A FEW UNESCORTED MILITARY JEEPS HAVE BEEN TRAVELING THE ROAD UNHAMPERED, EVEN THOUGH ENEMY TROOPS STILL OCCUPY THE HIGH GROUND ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE ROAD FROM THE CONG HOA BRIDGE WEST AND COULD HARASS THEM AT WILL. THE 61ST AND 69TH RANGER BATTALIONS HAVE REMAINED IN THEIR PRE-JUNE 15 POSITIONS AND NO INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THAT AREA FOR
R
NEARLY TWO WEEKS.

B. ASIDE FROM SPORADIC ENEMY MORTAR ATTACKS, NO SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED AROUND THE NUI TRONG OUTPOST IN WESTERN SON TINH DISTRICT, QUANG NGAI PROVINCE, SINCE THE 2/6 BATTALION OF THE 2ND ARVN DIVISION MOVED INTO THE AREA A WEEK AGO. ARVN TROOPS HAVE OCCUPIED AN AREA OF ABOUT SIX SQUARE KILOMETERS WITH THE APPARENT INTENTION OF DENYING ENEMY TROOPS AND CADRE ACCESS INTO AND THROUGH THE AREA. DIVISION CO BG TRAN VAN NHUT
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AT A JULY 4 RECEPTION GIVEN BY THE QUANG NGAI ARRO DIRECTOR REITERATED IN THE PRESENCE OF SEVERAL GVN OFFICIALS AND PROVINCE COUNCIL MEMBERS HIS PROMISE TO RESECURE WESTERN SON TINH AND REOPEN PROVINCIAL ROUTE 5B FROM SON TINH TO SON HA WHICH IS THE ONLY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT THAT REMAINS COMPLETELY INACCESSIBLE BY ROAD. POLOFF COMMENT: SECURING THE LARGE RICE PRODUCING AREA IN WESTERN SON TINH AND REOPENING THE 20 KILOMETER STRETCH OF HIGHWAY 5B FROM SON TRUNG (V) (BS6076) AND THE SON TINH SON HA BORDER

(BS 4274) WILL REQUIRE A MUCH LARGER MILITARY FORCE AND A MUCH MORE VIGOROUS OPERATION THAN WE HAVE SEEN THUS FAR. THE ONLY WAY THAT THE ROAD TO SON HA IS LIKELY TO BE OPENED IN THE NEAR FUTURE IS ON TERMS ACCEPTABLE TO THE PRG. END COMMENT.

C. QUANG TIN SECTOR FORCES, AIDED BY THE 37TH RANGER BATTALION, ARE CONTINUING TO MAKE PROGRESS IN KY AN VILLAGE AREA, NORTHWEST TAM KY DISTRICT. HOWEVER, AS THEY HAVE MOVED WESTWARD INTO PHUOC LONG (V), TIEN PHUOC (D), THEY ARE STARTING TO ENCOUNTER INCREASING RESISTANCE FROM THE FOUR UNDERSTRENGTH VC LOCAL FORCE BATTALIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN COMBINED INTO ONE FORCE TO OPPOSE THEM AND WHICH ARE LOCATED IN THE MOUTH OF THE AK VALLEY (VICINITY BT1622). THESE ARE THE 70TH AND 72ND INFANTRY BATTALIONS, 74TH HEAVY WEAPONS BATTALION AND THE X-16 SAPPER BATTALION. SIGNED BROWN UNQUOTE.
WHITEHOUSE

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